
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Success Towards Wildfire Resilience for Community of Cherryville

For the past decade, the Cherry Ridge Management Committee (CRMC) Community Forest has played a leading role in strengthening wildfire preparedness in Cherryville. Since hosting its first S100 Fire Training course ten years ago, the Committee has provided annual wildfire response training opportunities for approximately 30 residents each year, helping build local capacity and resilience.

Recognizing the importance of long-term community preparedness, the CRMC invested in an attack bush truck equipped with a water tank and pump system to support emergency response efforts. The Committee also spearheaded the development of the Cherryville Firewatch Society and committed \$120,000 toward construction of a dedicated facility to house firefighting equipment and provide space for ongoing training and community education.

With support from numerous donors and funding through the Regional District of North Okanagan Electoral Area E Community Works Funding Program, the Cherryville Firewatch Building is now complete and operational. The project was delivered without any increase to local taxation, and funding has been secured to support training and operations for the next two years. The Cherryville Firewatch Society will continue to pursue additional fundraising opportunities to ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

"This project demonstrates what can be achieved when a community comes together around a shared goal," said Jim Johnson, Director of RDNO Electoral Area E. "The commitment of volunteers, donors, and community partners has created a lasting resource that will help protect Cherryville residents and support wildfire preparedness going forward."

The completion of the Firewatch Building represents a significant milestone in the community's commitment to wildfire preparedness. Through unwavering dedication, Cherryville has strengthened its ability to respond to wildfire risks, enhanced community resilience, and created a lasting legacy that will benefit residents for years to come.

To learn more about the Cherryville Firewatch Society, residents are encouraged to visit their community Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CherryvilleFireWatch.

– 30 –

